Jack Anderson's Washington Merry-go-round

—With Les Whitten

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WASHINGTON — Despite the cordial smiles that abounded during the recent visit of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to Washington, his secret talks with U.S. leaders were marked by bitter complaints against the CIA.

The fluttering blue and white Israeli flags along downtown streets, the warm greeting by President Ford on a rainy White House lawn and Rabin's address to Congress created an impression that U.S. - Israeli relations were trouble-free.

In private talks, however, Rabin pulled out sheafs of top secret Israeli intelligence reports in an attempt to show the CIA and its recently departed director William Colby tried to undermine Israel.

Colby advised key senators late last year that Israel had a respectable military advantage over its Arab neighbors. Partly as a result, President Ford is asking only $1.8 billion in aid for Israel, at least $500 million less than the Israelis are seeking.

But during his visit, Rabin denounced Colby's estimates as incomplete, citing figures from his own highly respected intelligence services. For instance, he charged, Colby had de-emphasized Jordan's 600 to 700 tanks and another 1,000 tanks in Iraq.

Rabin was particularly furious over the CIA's estimates on Iraq which supplied three large units of troops to the Arabs in the 1973 war. At that time, Rabin acidly pointed out here, the Iraqis were distracted by Kurdish rebels.

Recently, however, to Israel's dismay, the CIA has withdrawn its support of the Kurds, thus freeing four more Iraqi divisions for possible action against Israel.

In addition, Rabin said the United States is unrealistic in thinking that Saudi Arabia, with its sophisticated U.S. arms, is not a potential Israeli opponent.

Meanwhile, the Soviet bloc, according to Rabin's top secret reports, is replenishing its Arab friends with planes, tanks and other war supplies at a rate five times faster than the United States is restocking Israel.

Indeed, observed Rabin during one conference, Israel has had to incorporate Russian equipment captured from the Arabs into its own military forces. The problem is, he noted sardonically, that Israel cannot buy.

KOREA CAPER: In a wild journalistic career missed by congressional investigators, the CIA once tried to bribe the Communist world's most famous newsman, Wilfred States for $100,000.

Defection by the talented Australian whose byline is familiar all over the Communist world would have been a juicy intelligence and publicity coup for the United Statees.

The bizarre idea of buying off Burchett originated with Maj. Gen. Blackshear Bryan, a top U.S. negotiator at Panmunjom, Korea, in September 1953. He discussed it with a U.S. newsman, a U.S. intelligence officer in World War II, who was an acquaintance of Burchett.

The newsman sat down with the CIA and drafted a plan in which the $100,000 would be offered to Burchett as he and the newsman walked down a Panmunjom path. At the end of the path was a U.S. landing pad where a helicopter would be ready to spirit off Burchett.

The newsman, who asked that his name be withheld because he still may visit Communist countries, told us that his purpose in serving as intermediary was to force the CIA to get information for him on two captured friends. The friends, correspondents Don Dixon and Richard Applegate, had been seized in a yacht off Hong Kong by Red China.

Skeptical of the Burchett plan's success, the newsman nevertheless raised it with the Communist reporter before they began their walk. "My news organization can offer you $100,000 for your life story," the newsman said. "Plus we'll take very good care of you." The $100,000 was to be CIA funds.

But Burchett had a wife and newborn child in Peking and also apparently liked his life as a globe-trotting Communist star reporter. He gave the U.S. newsman no encouragement. When the newsman - intermediary advised that the scheme be dropped, the CIA cancelled "Operation Burchett."

Footnote: The newsman told us he had been promised the scoop on the defection as part of the agreement. "Besides," he said, "don't forget, in those days we all felt differently about the CIA."

WASHINGTON WHIRL: The oil industry often has been accused of making obscene profits, but until now no one has accused them of obscene advertising. However, a chemical industry magazine recently featured full-page Amoco, Arco and Ashland Oil ads featuring bare breasts and buttocks. A risque Tenneco cartoon ad shows a three-handed salesman telling a three-breasted businesswoman, "I can't tell you, Miss Jarvis, how pleased I was when they told me I was selected as the Tenneco salesman to call on you."...

While ordinary air travelers pay up to $6 a day to park at Washington airports, members of Congress, diplomats and Supreme Court justices get free parking right adjacent to the terminals. This year, the taxpayers are forking over $48,000 for guards to keep anyone else from parking on the VIP lots...

Rep. Millicent Fenwick, R-N.J., returned from a visit to China with a recipe for duck that is not likely to make it onto the staid House of Representatives restaurant menu. It calls for cooking up the duck's tongue and webbed feet along with the usual cuts...

One of Washington's leading electronic surveillance experts, Clyde Wallace of the Spy Shop, recently moved and found that 25 wires from a Spanish government office next door ran temptingly through his new quarters. He bugged the telephone company to remove them but has no intention of bugging the Spaniards.